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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1912.

THE EVOLUTION OF MR. TAFT'S IDEAS.

Two years ago President Taft was just naturally spoiling for a war with Mexico. He was going to start it as soon as Congress got off his hands—provided the excuse for doing so continued fair.

The thing wasn't feasible at that time. Now Mr. Taft is again considering war with Mexico; but this time he is determined under no circumstances to have it without Congressional assent.

As in everything else during his Administration, Mr. Taft has managed, on this question, to be on both sides—and to do nothing worth while.

REALLY, GOVERNOR, WHY NOT?

Governor Wilson has spoken in praise of the spirit and purposes of the Progressive party.

Now he comes out in praise of the nomination of Oscar Straus for governor of New York, and observes that "they have put up an admirable ticket and an admirable platform, and will put us on our mettle."

Very creditable, governor; now, instead of standing for the reactionary ticket that Murphy will nominate, why not just come through and give your support to the Progressive ticket? You will be recognized at any time to offer a motion to make it unanimous.

BURYING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

The chairman of the Taft State committee in Nebraska has issued a statement calling on Taft Republicans to vote for Wilson for President, and Democratic candidates for the legislature.

It's a case of "anything to beat Roosevelt and Progressivism."

"Regular" county committees in Iowa—that is, committees that are representative of the standpat order—are going over bodily to Wilson; trying to deliver the reactionary Republican vote to Wilson, because Wilson looks good to them, and they think he has a chance to win, while Taft has none.

The same thing is going on in several other States.

That sort of testimonial to the "progressivism" of Prof. Wilson will help a lot. It will help consolidate all the Progressives of the country behind Roosevelt; and they are about 80 per cent of all the people.

DECIMATION OF FORT D. A. RUSSELL.

It is announced that a regiment of troops now at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, will be sent to the Texas border. This is a very real calamity. There should be instant protest.

The War Department, if it once gets the troops away from Fort Russell, may never get them back. It wants to get rid of that fort anyhow, for no better reason than that there is no sense in having a fort there, and despite the fact that to abolish it would be a rank piece of lese majeste in offense against the puissance and dignity of Senator Warren, proprietor and guardian of that military establishment.

What Senator Warren ought to do is to insert in the next appropriation measure a provision that no soldiers, stationed at Fort Russell, should ever be withdrawn for service. That would establish an exact parity between the fort and the soldiers there: both would be perfectly useless.

PREPARING TO HUSTLE.

It is not without significance that Governor Wilson has found it worth while early in the campaign to depart from his announced intention of sticking around home and letting the country take him or leave him on what it now knows of him. He has already accumulated a schedule of speeches which looks suspiciously like a "swing around the circle."

Perhaps the news from the West and the enthusiasm displayed there for the Progressive candidates, the announcement of men like Senators Cummins of Iowa and Bourne of Oregon of their intention to support Roosevelt, the strength displayed in Vermont by the third ticket and numerous other indications of how it is stirring the country may not have prompted the change in the governor's program.

But the governor is ready to pick up his grip and start out to hustle—a thing that did not seem to him at all necessary a few weeks ago.

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

In his Maine campaign Governor Marshall, Democratic candidate for Vice President, discussed the trust question in a speech at Augusta, August 27, in which he said:

How can we reach the question? Forfeit the charter of every corporation which marries another or by gentlemen's agreement lives in open and notorious relations with another. Can this be done? Why not? A corporation is only a creature of the State organized to do definite things. It has no inalienable rights. It is only artificial with conferred powers. The State can revoke these charters. A few revocations and a few shaved heads will take the swelling out of some fortunes and warn others not to swell!

When the Democratic candidate for Vice President was making this speech he certainly was fully

aware that his running mate and political superior, Governor Wilson, was governor of a State known as "mother of the trusts," and that Wilson has at no time evidenced a disposition to revoke the charter of any trust incorporated in New Jersey.

Friday's news tells of the marriage in New Jersey of two immense corporations, the International Nickel Company and the Colonial Nickel Company, with a combined capital of \$27,000,000. Will Candidate Wilson follow the theory of Vice Candidate Marshall and forfeit the charters of these corporations?

A few days ago a number of corporations were indicted in Texas for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, and among them was the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. Will Candidate Wilson follow the suggestion of Vice Candidate Marshall and revoke the charter of the Standard Oil trust of New Jersey?

Within the last week the United Shoe Machinery Company, the trust which controls all machinery for the manufacture of shoes and thereby indirectly controls the entire shoe industry, has come into the limelight because it has succeeded in accomplishing the unheard of procedure of getting its trial before a Federal court for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law ordered to be held in private. The trust which obtains these favors from a Federal court is incorporated in New Jersey. Will Candidate Wilson carry out the suggestion of the Vice Candidate and forfeit the charter of the Shoe Machinery trust?

Is Candidate Wilson's practice or Vice Candidate Marshall's theory to be the Democratic attitude toward trusts?

THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES.

Clonel Roosevelt, in his speech to the Montana Progressive State convention on Saturday, pointed a parallel between the Taft and the Wilson platforms, that cannot be too often emphasized or too strongly dwelt upon. With reference to the proposals of the two old parties for dealing with the problem of industrial trusts and combinations, he shows that neither of the old parties has offered anything new; both are proposing to continue the method that has been a notorious failure, that has made the Sherman law a mockery of the people's interest, and a real protection to the great combinations. In the face of the fact that that law has been made a benefit to the Standard Oil and Tobacco combinations through the method adopted in their dissolution; in the face of the immense increase in their power of domination over their respective industries; notwithstanding the huge increase in the value of their securities, following and resulting from their "dissolution," neither of the old parties has anything to offer except a program that would be certain to confer like immunities and benefits on more combinations of the same character.

This Colonel Roosevelt makes clear in his Montana address. "Mr. Wilson's proposal," he says, "is to continue in exactly the same course that the Taft Administration is now continuing, for the differences between the Republican and Democratic platforms on this matter are merely differences of sound and fury and not of sense. Mr. Wilson's proposal is to regulate competition by 'dissolving' trusts in the way the Standard Oil and the Tobacco trusts were 'dissolved.' You know the prayer in Wall Street now is, 'Give us another dissolution.' Wall Street likes to have its property dissolved in that way."

It would be useless to deny that Colonel Roosevelt has fairly stated the facts. The only contribution of light and reason, of constructive ideas and workable program, that has been made to this subject in the present campaign, is that from the Progressive party. Suppose the country gives opportunity to either of the old parties to go ahead with the policy that has been worked out in the oil and tobacco cases: what will result? Plainly, we will see, in the next few years, a long list of trusts dissolved under decrees similar to those that were written in those two cases. Those decrees constitute in effect a mandate of the highest authority to go ahead making competition impossible; to drive independents out of the field by the same old methods that have become well known, and to enjoy the assurance that in doing so they are protected by the law of the land and the decrees of the courts.

That sort of thing is not what the country wants. Take either horn of this dilemma, and it is about equally bad. "Dissolution" that really dissolved, that meant real destruction, would be ruinous to the business of the country; dissolution that left the trusts with all the power, profits and immunities that were conferred on them by the two famous decrees that have been referred to, would mean a continuance of the worst evils of trust control. One or the other of these sets of evils must result if either Taft or Wilson is elected. It is a case of choosing between parties that are not essentially different, on the biggest immediate economic question of the time.

The alternative is the Progressive proposal. Mr. Roosevelt summarized that in this same Montana address. "What I want," he said, "is to see an interstate industrial commission which shall handle the Standard Oil, settle Tobacco and every big trust through administrative action just as the Interstate Commerce Commission handles the railroads, and with a power extended beyond that of the Interstate Commerce Commission."

There is the difference; Roosevelt offers something whose practicability and efficacy have been attested by the success of the Interstate Commission in handling the railroads. That method has served both the public and the railroads well; both investors and patrons. It has improved business morality, checked graft and corruption, largely taken the railroads out of politics.

Wilson and Taft propose to continue a method that has made conditions in the industrial world worse instead of better. Is it difficult to conclude which way an intelligent public sentiment will turn?

REFLECTS WELL.

"Do you suppose that giddy girl ever spends any time in serious reflection?" "Yes, whenever there's a looking glass around."—Baltimore American.

A GREAT FIGHTER



NAVY YARD SCARED BY BLOWOUT OF AN ELECTRIC FUSE

Feared Lightning Might Set Off Stored Explosives. Little Real Damage.

Although Washington experienced one of the most severe storms of the summer season early last evening, but little real damage was done.

A big scare was created at the Navy Yard where lightning blew out an electric fuse in one of the buildings where explosives are stored. The bolt fortunately did not strike the building, but it came sufficiently close to overcharge the electric wiring and cause the blow-out.

Sailors and marines tumbled out in the downpour for fire drill, and some one called out the city fire department before the extent of the danger was known. This action was costly to the District, as an alarm from box 28 in the Navy Yard brings out four engine companies, two trucks, the fireboat, and a deputy chief, more than goes to the White House.

Lightning struck the home of Police Capt. Henry Schneider, of the Seventh precinct, on Conduit road near Little Falls station, and started a blaze which was extinguished by the captain and his son before the arrival of No. 5 Engine Company. The bolt ran down the telephone wiring and tore off a part of the roof and weather boarding. The damage is estimated at \$50.

Car Service Stopped. Theater audiences were kept at home by the downpour and many shoppers and market men were drenched before they could reach shelter. Street car schedules were seriously interfered with and traffic on several lines was temporarily stopped by short circuits.

The storm broke at 7:30 o'clock. It reached its zenith probably twenty minutes later, and was accompanied by vivid lightning display and a rainfall of 1.7 inches. As a consequence theater audiences were slim. Every playhouse was affected to a great extent. Many show patrons did not reach the downtown section until 9 o'clock and after.

Manhole Cover Blown Off. Pressure from the heavy run-off of water blew a manhole cover from the big Fifteenth street sewer, and only the instinct for danger of an ambulance horse averted a serious accident. The Emergency Hospital ambulance was making a quick run down Fifteenth street, when the horse suddenly shied and stopped. The driver urged him on without success, and then got down from his seat to investigate. The horse was on the very edge of the open sewer.

There were four persons in the ambulance at the time. C. P. Harding, of the Government Printing Office, suffered a paralytic stroke, while out with his wife. Mrs. Harding accompanied him in the ambulance from in front of 142 New York avenue Northwest. Dr. Irmen was riding with them. After treatment at the hospital Mr. Harding was taken to his home. He shows improvement today.

DUCHESS INVITED TO CHRISTEN WARSHIP

Churchill's Honoring of American Girl Snub for His Cousin, the Duke.

LONDON, Sept. 8.—A signal honor has been shown the Duchess of Marlborough by the British admiralty, which has formally asked her to perform the ceremony of christening the new British dreadnought, which is to be called the Marlborough, at the launching of that vessel, at Devonport, next month.

The request is notable, inspired as it is by Winston Churchill, a first cousin of the duke and first lord of the admiralty. It is a sharp snub for the duke when a member of his own family bestows so marked an honor on the American girl whom he has so ineffectually tried to "freeze out" of English society. In spite of all the duke's efforts, the duchess has an unshakable social position in London. Lately she has been devoting herself more and more to public work of a social nature, and is becoming well known and very popular among the general public.

Winston Churchill will be present at the launching of the Marlborough, and will call on the duchess to perform the ceremony of breaking a bottle of wine over the bow of the ship.

Get Uniform Contract.

Elsman & Co., Seventh and E streets northwest, has been awarded the contract for supplying uniforms for the special delivery messengers of the post-office.

TREASURY OFFICIAL'S SON IS RECOVERING

Harold Bantz Will Come Home From New Mexico This Week.

Harold Bantz, son of Gideon C. Bantz, Assistant Treasurer of the United States, will be sent home from Luna, N. Mex., Tuesday in care of an uncle, convalescent from an attack of malaria.

Young Bantz, who is a graduate of Western High School and was a prominent cadet, had finished his freshman year at Stevens Institute and wanted to spend the summer in the open. His father obtained a place for him in the Forestry Service. Bantz returned from a trip on which cattle running on the forest reserve had been driven off and was taken ill, presumably from drinking tainted water at one of the camping places. A telegram received last night indicated that he is recovering rapidly.

Forty-five Nations Will Be Represented

BOSTON, Mass., Sept. 8.—Five hundred delegates, representing forty-five nations, are expected to attend the fifth international congress of Chambers of Commerce, which will open in Boston Tuesday, September 24.

Besides the important European countries, Arabia, Tasmania, the Bahamas, Turkey, Panama, Peru, India and Algeria will be represented. President Taft is honorary president of the congress.

BOTH PARTIES ARE CLAIMING MAINE ON EVE OF BALLOTING

Progressives Have No State Ticket, But Are Waiting for November.

PORTLAND, Me., Sept. 8.—On the eve of the Maine State election, the opponents of those who pretend to be informed as to the sentiment of the voters are so conflicting that the conclusion is that the vote is likely to be close, with the chances favoring the re-election of Gov. Frederick W. Plaisted by a smaller plurality than two years ago.

If the Democratic prognostics are based on sound information, Monday's election is to be a Democratic landslide, but if the Republican managers are right William T. Haines will be elected governor by a few thousand.

Several conspicuous members of the Progressive party, who are favorable to the election of Mr. Haines, but who are more interested in carrying the State for Colonel Roosevelt in November, privately express the opinion that whether Haines or Plaisted is victorious depends upon the showing made by the Republicans of Cumberland county, particularly in Portland. The Progressive party has no candidates for State offices, but hopes to have an effective organization in the coming Legislature.

If there is no greater interest on Monday than has been shown so far by Portland Republicans, the Progressives agree that any losses sustained by Governor Plaisted in other sections will be more than met by Republican defections in this county.

The Progressive leaders expect the governor to fall below his 1899 vote in eastern Maine, but Cumberland county will more than supply the deficiency, they say, unless Portland Republicans show greater party zeal.

Governor Plaisted asserts his confidence on an election by a greater plurality than the 5,666 he received two years ago, but suggests that members of the State committee are more competent than he to estimate the vote. He expects, however, that he will have fully 10,000 more votes than his opponents.

Warren C. Philbrook, of Waterville, chairman of the Republican State committee, believes Mr. Haines will have a "comfortable majority," that four Republicans will be elected to Congress and that Edwin Burleigh is sure of election to the United States Senate by a Republican legislature.

Mr. Haines, the Republican candidate, estimates his plurality at 10,000, after covering the State thoroughly and accepting the statements of various counties, city and town leaders. It does not appear that national issues will govern the voters on Monday. At the beginning of the campaign the Democrats believed that Republican strife would secure them an easy victory, especially since the sentiment for Colonel Roosevelt among Republicans is so overwhelming. Two opposite views of the matter in which President Taft was nominated were expected to silence thousands of voters on Monday.

Evening Services in the Churches

- "MAN"—The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 8 p. m.
"HAVE WASHINGTON WOMEN OR MEN MORE CURIOSITY?"—The Rev. E. Hez Swem, the Centennial Baptist Church, 8 p. m.
"A CALL FOR CHARACTER"—The Rev. Bernard G. Braskamp, the Church of the Covenant, 8 p. m.
TENT SERVICE—Mt. Pleasant street and Park road, 7:30 p. m.
"THEE GO THE SHIPS"—The Rev. Joseph M. M. Gray, the Hamline Episcopal Church, 8 p. m.
"THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES"—The Rev. N. H. Holmes, the Foundry M. E. Church, 8 p. m.
"PSYCHIC IDEALS"—The Rev. G. W. Kates, the First Spiritualist Church, Pythian Temple, 7:30 p. m.
DISCOURSES—Menta Sturgeon, the International Bible Students' Association, old Masonic temple, 3 p. m. and 7:30 p. m.
SERMON—The Rev. J. Luther Frantz, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 8 p. m.
"A RELIGION THAT RENEWS"—The Rev. J. Alvin Campbell, the First United Presbyterian Church, 8 p. m.
"THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST—HOW? WHY? WHEN?"—The Rev. John E. Briggs, the Fifth Baptist Church, 8 p. m.
"LABOR'S GREATEST CHAMPION"—The Rev. J. Compton Ball, the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 8 p. m.
"NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT HADES"—The Rev. F. W. Johnson, the Grace Baptist Church, 8 p. m.
"THE INLOOK"—The Rev. Hinson Vernon Howlett, the Second Baptist Church, 8 p. m.
COMBINED SERVICE—The congregation and Epworth League, the Wesley M. E. Church, 8 p. m.
"RECREATIONS AND AMUSEMENTS"—The Rev. J. T. Enos, the Calvary Baptist Church, 8 p. m.